

Cambridge University Press
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Maher M. Dabbah and K. P. E. Lasok Qc
Frontmatter
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Merger Control Worldwide

Merger Control Worldwide is a comprehensive, multi-contributor collection which sets out the details of every jurisdiction where a mechanism for merger control is in place. A concise, practical account is given of the relevant law in each jurisdiction, presented with the aid of flowcharts and diagrams. *Merger Control Worldwide* aims to provide the legal community, in particular law firms and policy-makers, with a clear point of reference that will prove invaluable when making decisions and delivering sound and accurate advice in merger cases. This, the second supplement to *Merger Control Worldwide*, provides an update on developments that have occurred recently in the field. It includes a comprehensive appraisal of a new jurisdiction, Singapore.

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Merger Control Worldwide

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Introduction to the Second Supplement

Maher Dabbah and Paul Lasok QC

It gives us particular pleasure to provide the truly global and distinguished audience of *Merger Control Worldwide* with this second (cumulative) supplement. We are extremely delighted to be able to keep all our readers up to date with the various developments which have occurred in the field of merger control globally since the publication of the first supplement. In particular, we are delighted to be able to extend the jurisdictional coverage of the work further and to include on this occasion a new chapter on the Singapore merger control regime.

As ever, we are fortunate to have such a wonderful team of contributors, to whom we are greatly indebted for showing such enthusiasm and commitment to *Merger Control Worldwide*. Without them, this new supplement would have never seen the light of day. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to them.

We hope that our readers will find the coverage of the supplement useful as they embark on their highly important advisory and research work and we look forward to sending them further updates in the future.

Introduction to the First Supplement

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We are delighted to place this first supplement before the readers of *Merger Control Worldwide*. Early in 2004 and well in advance of the day on which we began turning into reality our idea of preparing an ‘Encyclopedia’ covering merger control regimes around the world, we had planned supplements to bridge the time gap between the first and second editions of the work. At the relevant time, we left it open whether such supplements would be annual or biennial. Indeed, we contemplated opting for the former only if *Merger Control Worldwide* received a sufficiently warm welcome and provided that recent developments in different regimes would merit it. We are pleased that that has turned out to be the case and that we are able to produce this first annual supplement. More importantly, however, we are pleased to be able to include two new chapters covering South Korea and Mexico – jurisdictions that we had intended to include in the first edition but unfortunately were unable to do so at the time.

This supplement does not cover all the jurisdictions included in the first edition. In the case of most jurisdictions, no important developments have occurred over the past year. It is envisaged that jurisdictions that have not been included in this supplement will be included in the second supplement next year, should they witness any interesting and important developments.

At an international level, the International Competition Network (ICN) continues to engage in highly interesting merger control initiatives with some impressive results. The 5th Annual Conference of the ICN was held in South Africa in May 2006. Merger control was not, however, the sole topic of discussion at that event. Reflecting the expansion in the scope of the ICN’s work, the Conference included a discussion of non-merger control issues, most notably cartels and other important topics such as competition policy implementation and the provision of technical assistance. The ICN’s merger control subgroups have been particularly active over the past year in producing highly interesting guidelines and recommendations. Those include a *Set of Recommended Practices for Merger Notification and Review Procedures*, developed by The Merger Notification and Review Procedure Sub-group (April 2004), and the *ICN Merger Guidelines Workbook* prepared by the Investigation and Analysis Subgroup (April 2004).¹

Producing supplements of multi-contributory works is never easy. The completion of the task of producing this first annual supplement was made possible only through the great cooperation of our excellent team of contributors, who were able to give contributing to *Merger Control Worldwide* a high ranking in their busy and demanding agendas. Very warm thanks go to all of them. It is an honour for us to work with them all. We look forward to continuing to do so and hopefully also to welcoming to our team of contributors new names in the years to come.

1 Both available at www.internationalcompetitionnetwork.org.